

FINAL EDITION

The

Evening

World.

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PRICE ONE CENT.

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NEW YORK, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1915

14 PAGES

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POLICEMAN HERE IS ACCUSED AS SPY; GERMAN AGENTS SAY THEY HIRED HIM

TEXT OF THE AUSTRIAN NOTE DENIES RESPONSIBILITY FOR SINKING OF LINER ANCONA

Vienna Declares That Even if Facts Are as Stated by the United States U-Boat Commander Cannot Be Blamed.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—The official text of Austria's reply to the American note on the Ancona, made public to-day, reveals that the Vienna Government denies that the views presented by the United States, even if correct, warrant the blame for the disaster being placed upon the commander of the submarine.

The reply denies also that blame can be placed upon the Austro-Hungarian Government even if "a most rigorous legal construction were applied to the judgment of the case."

The note also states that the Austro-Hungarian Government is unable to determine what the United States intended to indicate when it mentioned the attitude which Germany had assumed toward submarine warfare. It adds that if the United States intended "to express an opinion to the effect that a prejudice of whatever nature existed" with respect to "juridical consideration" of the affair the Vienna Government declares that it reserves to itself "full freedom of maintaining its own legal view."

Except for slight variation in translation the remainder of the official text virtually is identical with the unofficial version cabled from London.

It was agreed in official quarters that the official text did not minimize a realization of the gravity of the situation which was impressed on officials by the unofficial cables, but it also was apparent that the door to further negotiations was not closed.

While the State Department was making the note public, President Wilson was at work in his study on the outline of a reply which will go forward sometime next week.

It is asserted in official circles that the new note will be sharper than the first, and plainly indicate that the Austrian contentions are unsatisfactory.

The State Department also made public an official text of the Austrian Admiralty's statement, which admitted that the submarine fired on the Ancona after the ship had come to a stop and while passengers still were aboard. It was upon this official admission of the Austrian Admiralty itself that a principal portion of the American note was based.

Official Text of the Austrian Note Rejecting Demands of U. S.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—Following is the text of the Austrian note on the Ancona case, made public to-day:

"In reply to the much esteemed note No. 4,167 which His Excellency Mr. Frederic Courtland Penfield, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America, directed to him in the name of the American Government under date of the 9th inst., in the matter of the sinking of the Italian steamer Ancona, the undersigned, preliminary to a thorough meritorious treatment of the demand, has the honor to observe that the sharpness with which the Government of the United States considers it necessary to blame the commanding officer of the submarine concerned in the affair, and the firmness in which the demands addressed to the Imperial and Royal Government appear to be expressed, might well have warranted the expectation that the Government of the United States should precisely specify the actual circumstances of the affair upon which it bases its case.

"As is not difficult to perceive, the presentation of the facts in the case in the aforesaid note leaves room for many doubts, and even if this presentation were correct in all points and the most rigorous legal conception were applied to the judgment of the case, it does not in any way sufficiently warrant attaching blame to the commanding officer of the war vessel or to the Imperial and Royal Government.

"The Government of the United States has also failed to designate the persons upon whose testimony it relies and to whom it apparently believes it may attribute a higher degree of credibility than to the commander of the Imperial and Royal fleet.

"The note also fails to give any information whatsoever as to the number, names and more precise fate of the American citizens who were on board of the said steamer at the critical moment.

"However, in view of the fact that the Washington Cabinet has now made a positive statement to the effect that citizens of the United States of America came to grief in the accident in question, the Imperial and Royal Government is in principle ready to enter into an exchange of views in the affair with the Government of the United States. It must, however, in the first place, raise the question why that Government failed to give juridical reasons for the demands set forth in its note with reference to the special circumstances of the incriminating events upon which it itself lays stress, and why in lieu thereof it referred to an exchange of correspondence which has been conducted with another Government in other cases. The Imperial and Royal Government is the less able to follow the Washington

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WILSON BUSY WITH STATE AFFAIRS ON HIS WEDDING DAY

President Pays Brief Visit to Fiancee, Then Returns and Resumes Business.

TO WED AMID ORCHIDS.

Bridal Party Will Stand Beneath Floral Bower To-Night—Police Guard Galt Home.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—The wedding of President Wilson and Mrs. Edith Bolling Galt in a general way overshadowed in interest to-day affairs of state. All arrangements were complete for the ceremony which is to be solemnized at Mrs. Galt's home to-night, presumably at 8:30 o'clock. Rev. Herbert Scott Smith, rector of St. Margaret's Protestant Episcopal Church, officiating. The members of the two families who are to be the wedding guests were here and decorators and florists had put the finishing touches on the rooms to be used for the wedding.

The President and his bride, it was stated to-day, will be married beneath a bower of orchids.

Arrangements for guarding the house during the ceremony included a diversion of all traffic from the street and a heavy guard of policemen and Secret Service agents about the premises.

The early part of the day was marred by a drenching downpour. The rain began during the night and continued until noon, when the skies cleared and the sun came out.

In the midst of the storm the President left the White House and motored to the home of his fiancée. After a brief visit he went to his bank where he spent half an hour, looking through his safe deposit box and going over some accounts.

The momentous event of his wedding failed to move the President from his customary routine of work. He was about the Executive Office early clearing up the unfinished ends of Government business preparatory to leaving it for two weeks. During the forenoon he conferred with Secretary of State Lansing and took up work on the second Ancona note to Austria.

At noon he stood as godfather for his granddaughter, Eleanor Wilson McAdoo at a Christening ceremony in the White House. After lunch he returned to his desk and was busy most of the afternoon with affairs of state.

During the day plans developed into action, insuring against any intrusion at the Galt home that might mar the wedding. Every precaution will be

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FIVE ARE KILLED, 11 HURT, IN B. AND O. ROAD CRASH

After Collision Express Train Runs Into Wreck, but Escapes Damage.

CHESTER, Pa., Dec. 18.—Five persons were killed and eleven injured, one probably fatally, in a rear-end collision between a train bound from Wilmington to Chester and another of empty express cars on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, at Fulton, two miles south of this city, last night.

The accident occurred about 6 o'clock, dense fog making it impossible for the engineers to see the signals. Most of the passengers were workmen in munition plants at Wilmington.

Mrs. Galt and President Who Wed To-Night At Quiet Ceremony in the Bride's Home



MRS. GALT
© HARRIS & EWING.
PRESIDENT WILSON
© PACI & SONS

PRESIDENT MARKS HIS WEDDING WITH CLEMENCY TO CONVICTS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—President Wilson celebrated his wedding to-day by extending executive clemency to several convicts. He gave a full pardon to Charles Conture, convicted at Missoula, Mont., for selling liquor to Indians. He commuted the sentences of D. L. Dillingham, convicted in Georgia for operating an illicit distillery, and William H. Hood, under conviction for robbery in Alabama.

The President also made several appointments. He signed an executive order permitting the appointment of Mrs. Virginia Campbell, a grandniece of Thomas Jefferson, to a Federal position without civil service examination; reinstated William S. Phelps, who had been removed as examining in the New York Customs House on what the President considered insufficient evidence, and ordered the appointment of Harriet M. Sweet to a position in the Treasury without examination because of her services in connection with the recent Pan-American Financial Congress.

\$5,000 BRIBE NOT 'PROMISED' FOR WOOD, DECLARES PROUT

"Towing Wood Along" Meant "Stringing" Him, Says Signal Company Man.

Col. Henry G. Prout continued before the Thompson Investigating Committee this afternoon his explanation of his share in offering a \$5,000 bribe to Public Service Commissioner Robert C. Wood.

The incident gave an excuse to Col. Prout's enemies in the Union Switch and Signal Company to bounce him from his \$25,000 job as President of the corporation; yet he declared yesterday that he could remember hardly any of the details. The investigators to-day did all they could to stimulate his flagging memory and help him recall the details of the clash in his company.

Col. Prout is about seventy years old, alert, close-knit and wiry in build, shrewd and non-committal in speech; full of qualifying clauses and shifting definitions.

"You said you met Commissioner

Wood only once?" asked Commissioner

le. Col. Prout nodded. "Yes."

Mr. Lewis read from Commissioner Wood's testimony at this investigation that Col. Prout had settled the \$5,000 fee with him for aiding the Kansas City, Clay County & St. Joe Railway contract.

"I did not meet him," said Col. Prout. "That was settled by letter."

Q Did you know of any reason why Sidney G. Johnson was anxious to have that \$1,500 check "reach him not later than Monday," as he wrote? A. I did not. I do not know.

Q Did you know that Mr. Wood at that time was about to be made Public Service Commissioner? A. I did not know.

Col. Prout declared that he was not on friendly terms with Walter D. Updegraff, who succeeded him as president of the Union Switch Company or with McClure or Levinson, the other directors who ousted him.

Q Did either of those, directly or indirectly, ask you to testify in their favor? A. No, sir.

The witness said he went with the Hall Signal Company a month after

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CITY BANK CLERK CONFESSES STEALING SECRETS OF ALLIES FOR GERMAN GOVERNMENT

Koenig, Alleged Active Head of Plot Here, Held in \$50,000 Bail on Charge of Planning to Destroy Welland Canal.

FOUR ARE NOW ARRESTED IN CONSPIRACY ROUND-UP

That the workings of German agents extended even into Police Headquarters was stated this afternoon to Police Commissioner Woods by Paul Koenig, reputed head of the German secret service here, and his secretary, Frederick Metzler, who is also under arrest.

FERRYBOAT CRASHES INTO STEAMER IN FOG

The Manhattan Rams Unidentified Vessel Off Bedloe's Island and Is Damaged—One Hurt.

Seventy feet of the lower cabin on the men's side of the Municipal ferryboat Manhattan were smashed in and ripped off this morning at 7:30 o'clock, when the boat became lost in the fog and collided with the stern of an unknown steamer anchored off Bedloe's Island.

Fortunately, there were only about sixty passengers aboard, and the only man hurt was George B. Carter, fifty-seven, a carpenter living at No. 7230 Third Avenue, Brooklyn. He sustained slight lacerations of the scalp from flying glass.

The ferryboat was in charge of Captain Gordon O'Brien. The boat seems to have awing into the steamship broadside on the damaged portion extending from a point amidships back to the stern. On reaching her slip at St. George, half an hour later, the damage was estimated at \$15,000.

The fog this morning was particularly thick in the inner harbor. The Holland-America Liner Noordam, together with a number of other ships, made Quarantine without much difficulty, but were unable to proceed for hours.

The Providence of the Fall River Line was stopped by the fog off College Point at 6 o'clock and did not proceed until nearly 10 o'clock. The Georgian of the Bay State Line and the Concord of the Colonial Line were also held up.

SHOT FROM DESTROYER HOLDS UP WARD LINER

Ericsson Fires on the Saratoga, Which Disregarded Signal to Stop.

The destroyer Ericsson fired a blank shot at the Ward Line steamer Saratoga, outward bound for Havana, to-day when the steamer disregarded a signal to stop.

Immediately after the shot was fired the Saratoga came to and, following a short wireless communication between the two vessels, the steamer was allowed to proceed.

Sailing to-day.

Tennison, Argentina 12 M.
Espagne, Bordeaux 3 P. M.

The disclosure resulted in the immediate summoning from vacation of Detective Otto F. Mattola of the Warrent Squad, who, according to Koenig and Metzler, had been in their employ at a salary of \$3 a day to furnish them information regarding the sailing of ocean steamships. They also stated that he had at their request investigated a passenger who sailed for Europe recently on the steamship Berengard.

Mattola was interrogated at length by Inspector Gray and Lieut. Funston and, while he admitted knowing Koenig, said he did not know Metzler at all. He denied ever receiving a penny from Koenig.

In a loose-leaf diary carried by Koenig were found entries of Mattola's home address, the telephone number of Police Headquarters and this sentence: "Can get at First Branch at 8:45 in the evening."

Deputy Commissioner Lord directed that charges be preferred against Mattola for engaging in other than police business.

Police Commissioner Woods said this afternoon: "This is one of the gravest charges which could be brought against a member of the department, particularly in times like these."

Mattola has been on the force for twenty-one years, and for the last ten years has been in the Detective Bureau.

Local officials of the Department of Justice said this afternoon that Koenig had twenty-five operatives under him, all of them designated by numbers, Koenig's being "39". They said they had discovered that Koenig was in constant touch with Capt. Boy-Ed and von Papen, the German attaches, and that his operatives frequently acted as bodyguards to the two.

The activities of German secret agents also led to-day to the vaults of the National City Bank. Frederick Scheindt of the commercial credit department of that institution was arrested this morning at his home, No. 1154 Bryant Avenue, the Bronx, charged with purloining from its vaults records, valued at \$100,000, giving confidential information regarding the shipment of war munitions to the Allies.

A cablegram sent to the bank inquiring about a shipment of 2,000,000 rifles, which he admitted abstracting from the bank's files, was found in his pocket.

Scheindt is arraigned in Centre Street Police Court and held in \$25,000 bail for examination Monday. He admitted being a German reservist and said that patriotism had animated him in his abstraction of the bank's records.

Scheindt also admitted having received about \$400 for the documents, which he said he delivered to Paul Koenig.

Koenig and Richard Emil Lgen-